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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHFJSCC/COMMARFORPAC IMMEDIATE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 005811

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TREASURY PASS TO FRB SAN FRANCISCO/TERESA CURRAN

EO 12958 DECL: 09/19/2016

TAGS PGOV, PHUM, TH

SUBJECT: THAILAND: MY MEETING WITH GENERAL SONTHI

Classified By: Ambassador Ralph L. Boyce, reason 1.4 (b)(d)

11. (C) I met with General Sonthi privately directly after he addressed the diplomatic corps this afternoon. He thought the session had gone well.  
12. (C) I began by asking Sonthi about the audience with the King last night. Who had attended? He said Privy Council President Prem Tinsulanon  
13. (C) Turning to the US reaction, I reminded him of our conversation, August 31, when I told him any military action would result in immediate  
14. (C) Sonthi responded by saying the military had truly acted in order to improve Thai democracy, not destroy it. The prevailing situation has  
15. (C) Was he going to seize Thaksin's assets? No, he stated flatly. Would Thaksin and his family and colleagues be allowed to return to Thailand?  
16. (C) Why had the military chosen to act at this particular point in time? Smiling slightly, he leaned forward. &Thaksin was at his weakest &  
17. (C) Comment ) Sonthi was relaxed and calm. Clearly the royal audience was the turning point last night. (Septel reports Thaksin's defiant &  
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